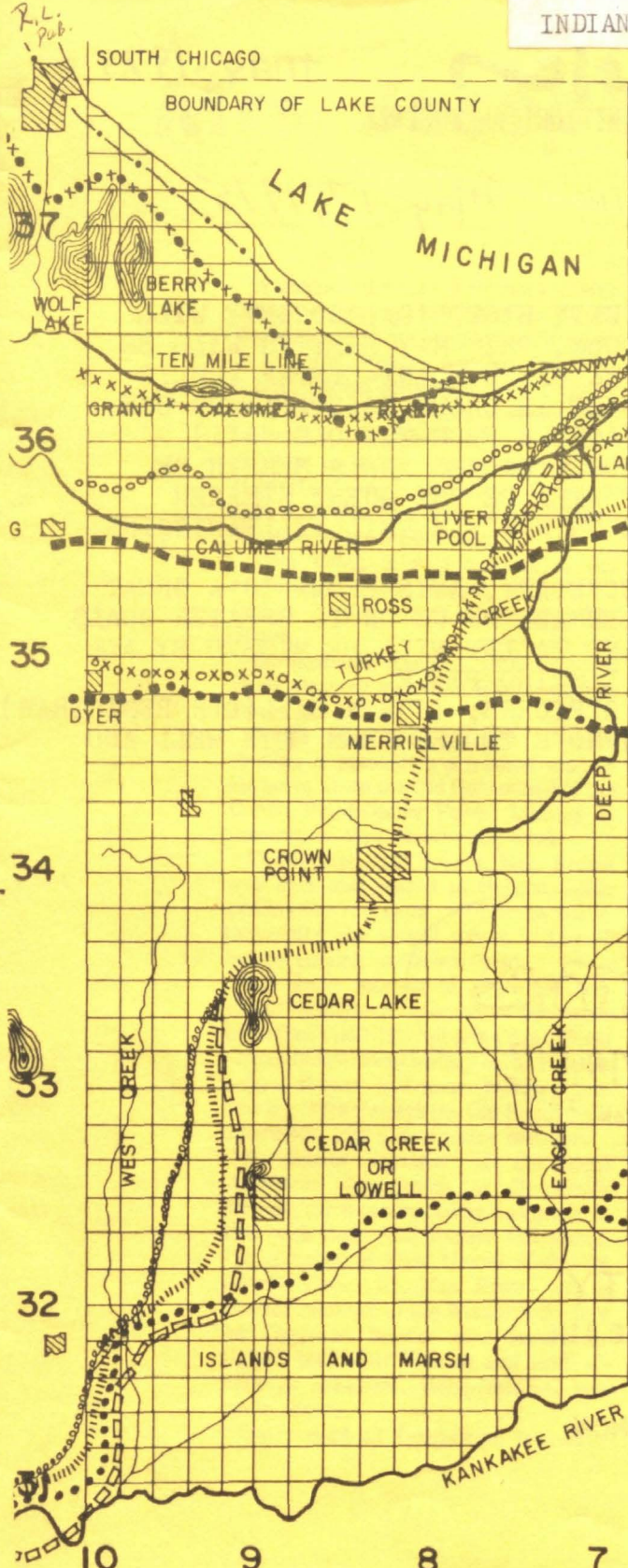


YOUR **Lake County** **HERITAGE**

Vol 2  No 2
LAKE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

May 75




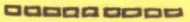
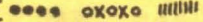

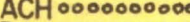




PORTER COUNTY

VALPARAISO

HEBRON

FOR REFERENCE ONLY

TRAILS

SAUK 
CEDAR LAKE 
POTTAWATOMIE 
CALUMET BEACH 
TOLLESTON BEACH 
CALUMET RIVER 
LAKE SHORE 
DUNES 
LAKE PRAIRIE 

MAY-1975

OUR NEXT MEETING - MAY 17, 1975

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE LAKE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL BE SATURDAY, MAY 17, 1975 AT 1:00pm. THE MAY MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CARNEGIE CENTER OF THE CROWN POINT-CENTER PUBLIC LIBRARY LOCATED SOUTH OF THE SQUARE IN CROWN POINT-PLEASE USE THE ENTRANCE OFF OF MAIN STREET(ACROSS FROM THE OLD JAIL)

BRUCE WOODS, A MERRILLVILLE SCHOOL TEACHER AND A MEMBER OF THE ROSS TWP. HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL BE THE GUEST SPEAKER AFTER THE MEETING AND WILL TOUCH ON EARLY MERRILLVILLE(WIGGINS POINT/CENTERVILLE)

THE DEATH OF OUR HISTORICAL SECRETARY, AVIS BROWN IS A GREAT LOSS TO OUR SOCIETY. SHE INSPIRED ALL OF US ON TO GREATER GOALS BY HER EXAMPLE. HER FRIENDSHIP AND TALENT WILL BE MISSED BY ALL WHO KNEW HER. MAY GOD GRANT HER LASTING PEACE.

A GET WELL SOON TO TWO OF OUR OFFICERS, IJUNIA BALL(OUR REGISTRAR) AND BESSIE KENNEY(OUR SECRETARY) HOPE TO SEE THEM BOTH WELL AND BACK ON THEIR FEET REAL SOON.



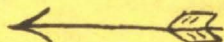
THE COVER

MAP OF LAKE COUNTY

TAKEN FROM A MAP DRAWN BY H.S. BALL

1873

INDIAN TRAILS BY BEULAH BRANNON



1966

Mrs. Joseph Brown Dies

LAKE COUNTY

MAY 15 1975

A special salute to the memory of Mrs. Joseph E. Brown will be given by the Crown Point City Council when it meets at 7:30 p.m. Monday evening, City Hall.

Mrs. Brown died Saturday at age 86 after more than 55 years of service and leadership to the community. Her recent activity included overseeing the Old Homestead on South Court Street in Crown Point. She was one of Crown Point's foremost historians.

"Her death is a great loss to our community," said Mayor Richard C. Collins. "She was an outstanding citizen."

Her husband, Joseph E. Brown, Crown Point attorney and civic leader, died in December 1972.

Crown Point poet-humorist Charles Swisher is presenting a framed copy of his poem about the Old Homestead to the Crown Point-Center Public Library in memory of Mrs. Brown this week.

The former Avis Bryant, Mrs. Brown was born and reared in Hebron. After graduation from Northwestern University, she taught school in Lowell before coming to Crown Point.

The early interest in education continued throughout the years in service as president (1927-1930) of the Crown Point School Board, local history talks to grade school classes and more recently conducting tours through the Old Homestead where she was a committee member.

A charter member of the local American Association of University Women, she was honored by that group in 1969 with their first named fellowship.

A member of First United Methodist Church since 1916, Mrs. Brown was a charter member of the Woman's Society for Christian Service now known as United Methodist Women and held offices as president, vice-president, and circle leader.

She served as Conference treasurer



MRS. BROWN

and as a district member, and was instrumental in the founding of Campbell Friendship House, Gary. Under her direction the "Centennial History of the Methodist Episcopal Church, 1838-1938" was published as a part of the county centennial.

Long active in the Old Settlers' and Historical Society, (now Lake County Historical Society) Mrs. Brown served as general chairman of the Lake County Centennial in 1934, and more recently co-authored "The Lake County Historical Association Reports and Papers, Vol. XII."

A student of history, she had kept all the society's records and had only recently served as general chairman for the local history display case at the newly opened McDonald's Drive-In on U.S. 30.

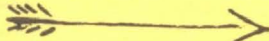
Past matron of Lake Chapter 408 Order of Eastern Star, Avis was a 59-year member of that group. A 40-year member of the Crown Point Garden Club,

CONT->

TAKEN FROM THE LAKE COUNTY STAR

OLD MILL-DEEP RIVER PARK SITES

Old Mill County Park was the site for thinning and cleaning up the area George Hall and Associates was hired to engineer plans for renovating John Wood's Mill the first industrial site in the county. The mill will be a historical museum with a park dedication for the Bicentennial Celebration in 1976.



SALUTE TO MRS. BROWN

Mrs. Brown had held all club offices and was particularly interested in its historical preservation work.

Mrs. Brown was a charter member of Julia Watkins Brass Chapter, National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution and had served as its regent and was the current chapter librarian. Interest in this patriotic society led to service as a State Recording Secretary, presidency of its State Officers' Club and as an organizer of Children of the American Revolution.

Her interest in preservation of records led to the compilation under DAR auspices of three volumes of early cemetery records of Lake County. Continuing historical and educational interest saw her as a Bicentennial Celebration Committee member and as an active participant in efforts to restore the Lake County Courthouse.

A Gold Star mother, Mrs. Brown was a member of American Legion Auxiliary Fred Schmidt Unit 20.

Memorial services by the Order of Eastern Star and by members of the local DAR chapter were held at Merriam-Little Funeral Home Sunday evening. Funeral services were held at First United Methodist by the Rev. Alfred L. Keller Monday afternoon with burial in Maplewood Cemetery.

Two sons, Bryant of Crown Point and Warren of London, survive along with nieces, nephews and cousins.

THE LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA COURTHOUSE

The Court House, located in Crown Point, Indiana, has been since its erection in 1878 a landmark in Lake County. For many years it has been the most massive structure in breadth and height, constructed by early settlers, that can be seen for miles on top of the continental divide. The Court House portrays a type of architecture of the Victorian Period which has made for a most interesting combination of Romanesque and Georgian styles. It has created a sort of quasi-military effect in appearance.

In early days the farmers held "horse sales". The horses were tethered to a chain fence around the Court House square. Those who drove a longer distance to purchase produce of any kind in those days of barter and exchange also hitched their horse-drawn vehicles to the same chain fence around the Court House.

The Court House is unquestionably a familiar landmark and rich in historical associations. On October 7, 1896 William Jennings Bryan, the silver tongued orator, addressed the citizens of Lake County when he was campaigning for the United States Presidency and stressed the importance of free silver.

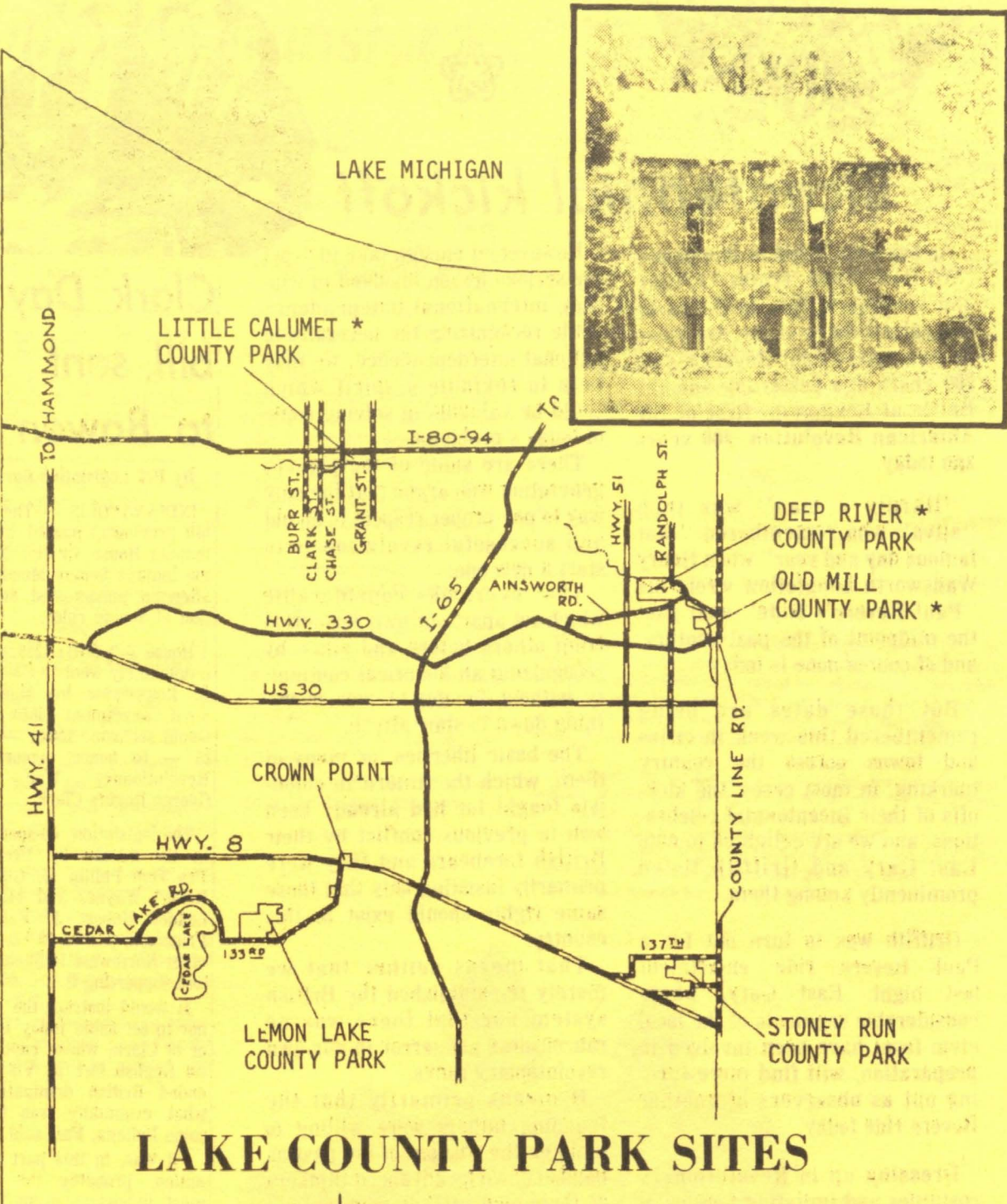
The Court House enlarged in 1907-09 depicts an age which reflects the development and growth of Lake County. It mirrors the changing role of local government in Hoosier life. This period reflects the great economic expanse of the oil industry started by John D. Rockefeller and the beginning of the steel mills by Judge Elbert Gary, making the Calumet Region one of the great industrial regions of the world.

Dr. David R. Hermansen, Professor of Architecture and Planning, at Ball State University and noted authority on historical buildings in the State of Indiana, stated: "The Lake County Court House is without question the finest architectural expression in Indiana. It is a major monument, and in my estimation, the most significant building in Lake County".

Indiana became a state in 1816. In 1837, Lake County was formed. Counties were said to have been laid out on the basis of the ability of a resident in an outlying corner to drive to the county seat with a horse, pay his taxes and get back home the same day. Lake County is 16 miles wide and 36 miles long.

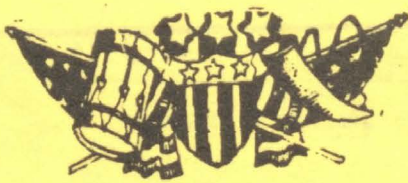
The first permanent settler Solon Robinson and Mariah Evans Robinson his wife, and family, arrived in October 1834 near Crown Point. Crown Point, the county seat, was founded in 1834 and incorporated in 1868. Solon Robinson deeded the major portion of the real estate on which the Court House stands. In his conveyance, he clearly provided for "this land to be used for a public square . . ."

The National Park Service of the United States Department of Interior has placed the Lake County Court House on the National Register of Historic Places.



LAKE COUNTY PARK SITES

LAKE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT



Bicentennial kickoff

As has been noted in this page's "We Hold These Truths" feature and elsewhere, this week marks two salient dates of the American Bicentennial—Paul Revere's ride 200 years ago yesterday and the Battle of Lexington, first of the American Revolution, 200 years ago today.

"Hardly a man" was then "alive" who remembered "that famous day and year" when Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote his "Paul Revere's Ride" well past the midpoint of the past century, and of course none is today.

But those dates are being remembered this week in cities and towns across the country marking, in most cases, the kick-offs of their Bicentennial celebrations, and we are delighted to note East Gary and Griffith listed prominently among them.

Griffith was to turn out for a Paul Revere ride en-actment last night. East Gary, where considerable segments of the local civic front have been involved in preparation, will find more turning out as observers of another Revere ride today.

Dressing up in Revolutionary costumes and imitating heroics of 200 years ago isn't automatically going to bring about a rebirth of the spirit which established this nation's independence against considerable odds.

However, if enough take to heart the serious lesson involved in winning international independence while recognizing the necessity of national interdependence, we may help to rekindle a spirit which could be valuable in solving some of today's problems.

There are some of the present generation who argue that the only way to pay proper respect to an old and successful revolution is to start a new one.

That overlooks considerable which set apart our own revolution from others before and since by recognizing an historical continuity without having to tear everything down to start afresh.

The basic liberties, or many of them, which the American colonists fought for had already been won in previous conflict by their British forebears and they were primarily insisting only that those same rights should exist in this country.

That means neither that we merely re-established the British system nor that there was no raucousness nor terror in our own revolutionary ranks.

It means primarily that the founding fathers were willing to build on the wisdom of the past as handed down by advanced thinkers of their own mother country and others. They didn't believe you had to burn a house down to save it, and that's an important concept to keep in mind throughout the Bicentennial.

GARY POST

Clark Day bill sent to Bowen

By P-T Legislative Bureau

INDIANAPOLIS — The first bill previously passed by the Indiana House finally cleared the Indiana Senate Monday — after an uncontested suspension of Senate rules.

House Bill (HB) 1228, which immediately went to Gov. Otis R. Bowen for his signature and enactment into law, would set aside today — Feb. 25 — to honor explorer — Revolutionary War hero George Rogers Clark.

The legislation, co-sponsored in the Senate by President Pro Tem Phillip E. Gutman, R-Fort Wayne, and Minority Leader Robert J. Fair, D-Princeton, passed 46-0 with all eight Northwest Indiana senators supporting it.

It would instruct the governor to set aside today in honor of Clark, whose capture of an English fort at Vincennes ended British domination of what eventually was to become Indiana, Fair said.

"It was, in this part of the nation, probably the single most important event," Fair said in seeking accelerated passage. "It assured the success of the American Revolution."

Bill OKs transfer of courthouse

By P-T Legislative Bureau

INDIANAPOLIS — Legislation to allow the Lake County commissioners to transfer the old courthouse in Crown Point to a not-for-profit corporation was signed into law today by Gov. Otis R. Bowen.

The same bill, HB 1299, would allow the Lake County Council to appropriate an amount equivalent to the cost of tearing down the building as a donation to the corporation, which would use the money to rehabilitate the structure.

old courthouse in downtown Crown Point to Lake Court House Foundation Inc. — or any other responsible organization — if commissioners are established as its owners.

Litigation to determine whether the 97-year-old structure and the property upon which it stands belong to the county or to heirs of the man who originally deeded it to county officials is pending in Jasper Circuit Court. On May 20 Judge Michael Kanne is expected to rule on that ownership following a hearing in his Rensselaer courtroom.

Under terms of the new legislation, commissioners — if they are determined to be the owners — also could turn over to the organization that is deeded the building and grounds the \$80,000 estimated to be the cost of razing the structure.

They have no such fund in their 1975 budget, however.

The bill was authored by State Rep. Jerome J. Reppa, R-Munster, and cosponsored by all the other legislators from Lake County.

The bill was among 23 signed by the governor today.

HB 1299 aroused no controversy in the Assembly. It passed 96-0 in the House on Jan. 29, and 48-0 in the Senate on April 2.

Effect of the enabling legislation is to allow Lake County Commissioners to convey the

THE LAKE COURT HOUSE FOUNDATION, INC.
P.O. Box 556 Crown Point, Indiana 46307
Wilbur Heidbreder, 141 N. Grant Street
Phone (219) 663-2234

PURPOSES:

- To preserve and maintain the Lake County Circuit Court House buildings and grounds as a historical building and a historical landmark.
- To organize, promote and operate it as a multi-purpose center.
- To co-operate with, to contribute and to provide services and physical facilities for Lake County, Indiana.
- To acquire, furnish and maintain the Lake County Circuit Court House building as a cultural center. To promote, establish and conduct enterprises within said building for the purpose of providing support and maintenance of said foundation and building. To do all other things permitted by law which would be proper and incidental to achieving the purposes and objects of the foundation.

OFFICERS

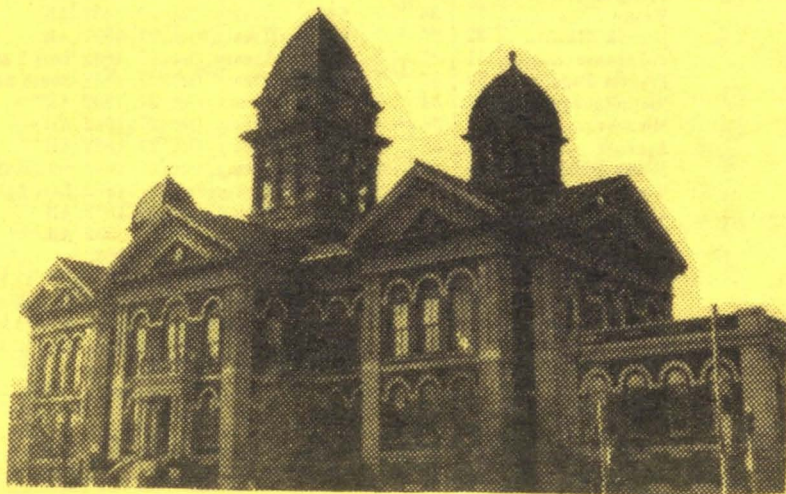
Wilbur Heidbreder	President
John G. Krupa	Vice President
Ijunia Ball (Ms)	Secretary
Daniel Root	Treasurer

The Lake County Court House Foundation, Inc., is incorporated under the laws of the State of Indiana as a non-profit community trust owned and operated by thousands of citizens of Lake County. The Foundation is an outgrowth of the Lake County Courthouse Preservation Committee, to be credited with starting the "Save Your Courthouse" campaign in 1971.

The funds for preserving and restoring the exterior and interior of this great structure are to be paid for by private subscription — a grass roots endeavor.

The campaign for contributions is now under way and as soon as the remaining legal entanglements are completed, the renovation and repair projects will get under way.

All contributions are Tax Deductible.



Heritage Trail

NICHOLS SCHERER

The founder and promoter of Schererville — NICHOLS SCHERER — was born on June 29, 1830 in the Saar Valley of Germany and came to America with his parents, John and Mary Scherer in 1846. The family located in St. John and later they moved to Dyer where John Scherer, the father died at the advanced age of 103 in the year 1865. In that same year Nichols located in what is now Schererville while he was working for the Great Eastern Railroad. In 1870 at the age of 39 years his mother, Mary passed away in Schererville.

Nichols Scherer married Frances Uhlenbrock in 1862 when he lived in St. John. They were the parents of seven children; Anna, who became Mrs. Nicholas Schafer; Margaret, who married Adam Gerlach; Nichols Jr., killed by lightning in 1893; Theresa, who became Mrs. Jacob Austgen; John G. who died in 1892; Joseph who died in 1891; Mary who died in her teens.

In 1873, the residents of Schererville presented to the Bishop of Fort Wayne a petition written by Frances Scherer asking to establish a Catholic parish. Nichols Scherer donated 4½ acres for the church and parish cemetery.

Soon a white frame church, dedicated to Saint Michael the Archangel stood at the site. The Bishop blessed Saint Michael's on September 29, 1874.

Nichols Scherer was a man involved in his community. As a pioneer of Lake County he used his many talents and interest to help and form this Northwest corner of Indiana.

And after a very active, useful life he retired in 1895 and in 1907, at the age of 74 he passed away at his home at 33 Wilhelm Street, Schererville. Funeral services were held at St. Michael's Church and he was laid to rest in the shadow of the Archangel's steeple!

by Steven Yaros Jr.

The following were the only tracts of land entered in the county prior to January 1, 1838, including the Pottawatomic "Indian Floats."
 TAKEN FROM W.A. GOODSPEED'S HISTORY OF INDIANA AND LAKE - 1882

PURCHASER.	Section.	Township.	Range.	Acres.	Date of Grant.	Location.
Quashman	21	35	7	160	Treaty, Oct. 27, 1832.	Northeast quarter.
Nuataumant	6	36	7	298.10	Treaty, Oct. 27, 1832.	South half.
Aubenaube	17	36	7	640	Treaty, Oct. 27, 1832.	All.
Renemosau	18	36	7	45.75	Treaty, Oct. 27, 1832.	All.
John B. Duckworth	19	36	7	473	Treaty, Oct. 27, 1832.	All.
Wesaw	20	36	7	640	Treaty, Oct. 27, 1832.	All.
Pokagon	29	36	7	640	Treaty, Oct. 27, 1832.	All.
Wesaw	31	36	7	640	Treaty, Oct. 27, 1832.	All.
Benack	32	36	7	640	Treaty, Oct. 27, 1832.	All.
Pokakanse	31	37	7	80.51	Treaty, Oct. 27, 1832.	Lots 2 and 3.
Francis Page, Jr.	32	37	7	310.50	Treaty, Oct. 27, 1832.	South half.
Nissinkquequah	17	34	8	640	Treaty, Oct. 27, 1832.	All.
Misnoke	1	36	8	569.34	Treaty, Oct. 27, 1832.	All.
Ashkum	4	36	8	556.50	Treaty, Oct. 27, 1832.	All.
Shawkowahluck	13	36	8	174.62	Treaty, Oct. 27, 1832.	Southeast quarter.
Wesaw	23	36	8	308	Treaty, Oct. 27, 1832.	East half.
J. B. Chadana	24	36	8	603.60	Treaty, Oct. 27, 1832.	All.
Mesahwetoquah	36	36	8	640	Treaty, Oct. 27, 1832.	All.
Besiah	36	37	8	371	Treaty, Oct. 27, 1832.
Arthur McClure	32	37	7	65.56	January 11, 1835	S. & N. W. 1/4 of Indian Boundry
Hiram S. Bennett	32	37	7	45.81	April 27, 1835	Lot 3, N. of Indian Boundary.
Mark Baubien	31	37	7	64.51	December 3, 1835	W. Part N. of Indian Boundry.
Hiram Pearsons	32	37	7	81.40	December 9, 1835	Lots 1 and 2, N. of Indian Bound.
Simon Kenton	31	37	7	44.60	June 3, 1836	Lot 5, S. of Indian Boundry.
John A. Calvin	31	37	7	54.80	June 3, 1836	Lot 6, S. of Indian Boundry.
Wm. W. Washbourn	31	37	7	80	June 4, 1836	South East Corner Quarter
Hiram Pearsons	33	37	7	105.72	January 20, 1837	Lots 1 and 2, N. of Indian Bound
Jacob Harlan	31	37	7	39.85	April 20, 1837	Lot 4, S. of Indian Boundry
John Ewing	31	37	7	25.40	April 28, 1837	Lot 1, S. of Indian Boundry



NORTHWEST INDIANA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 512 — MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA 46360

Dear Friend,

We have two wonderful speakers coming to our meeting on Saturday May 17, 1975. Mrs. Robert Anderson will speak about Tassinong in the morning after the business meeting and then the LaPorte County Bicentennial Chairman, Mrs. Charlotte Bass will speak and demonstrate some of the old-time crafts.

Time: 10:00 a.m. May 17, 1975

Place: The Orange Bowl Meeting Room
at U.S. 30 & State Rd. 49, Valparaiso

Luncheon Menu: Relishes, salad, potatoes
roast beef, chicken,
ice cream

Cost: \$6.00



The dedication stone, above, at McDonald's on U.S. 30 & Taney Place in Merrillville helps to create an historical atmosphere as does the display case inside the dining room which has a rotation of artifacts displayed by the Lake County Historical Societies. This month the display is from Gary.



U.S. 30 and Taney Place
Merrillville, Indiana

You
You're the one T. M.

FORMERLY NAMED

The Historical Association of Lake County, Indiana

THE

LAKE COUNTY

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

announces the reprinting of the 1904 edition of Timothy Ball's "Encyclopedia of Genealogy and Biography of Lake County, Indiana, 1834 to 1904", published in 1904. There was a very limited number of copies printed at that time. Many of the families whose origins were noted are still represented in Lake County, Indiana today, and there have been many requests for copies of this book. This book also presents a picture of pioneer life in the county spanning these years.

The book is $7\frac{1}{2} \times 10\frac{1}{2}$ inches in page size, with many family pictures of both husband and wives, and date of their marriage. The early history of the beginning of the railroads is noted briefly.

Enclosed please find my check in the amount of \$ _____ in payment for:

_____ copies T. H. Ball's "Encyclopedia of Genealogy of Lake County, Indiana 1834 to 1904". Reprint @ \$17.00 per copy.

_____ copies "Reports and Papers of Lake County Indiana Historical Association, 1934 to 1966" by Avis Brown and Mary Lou Vanderlaan, divided into 5 year periods covering the reports and programs of the association, with added features @ \$6.00 per copy.

_____ copies Brochure based upon artist conception of the pioneer scenes @ \$.50 per copy.

Dues for the year 1974-1975 for those wishing to join the Association at this time are \$2.00 for individual memberships. Firms \$25.00. Organizations \$10.00. Life membership \$100.00.

Name _____

Address _____

City and State _____ Zip _____

Make checks payable to:
Mail with your order to:



LAKE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 614

Crown Point, Indiana 46307

The Hack family, from the Rhine Province, Germany, settled in Prairie West in 1837. In 1843 John Hack built a log Chapel on his farm, where the now large German Catholic settlement might worship.

The building was sold to a farmer after the brick church was erected in 1856 in the village of St. Johns. In the 1920's the Boy Scout Council purchased the chapel and moved it to the Lake County Fairgrounds to serve as a retreat.

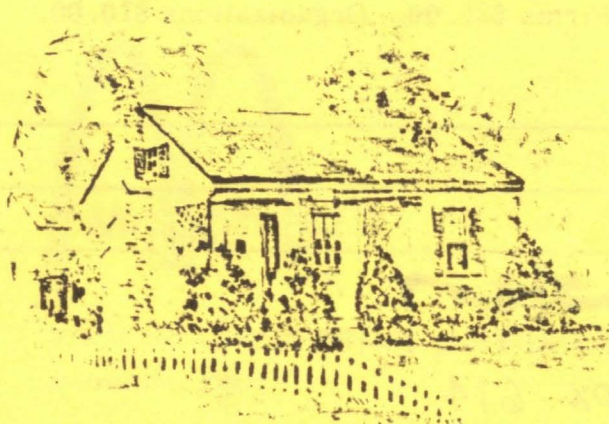
In 1963, The Capuchin Seminary, in the process of establishing east of Schererville, became the location. It has been carefully restored by the Friar craftsmen.

Now on Display
ON ROUTE 41 IN
St. JOHN, IND.



LAKE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 614
Crown Point, Indiana 46307



*The Old Homestead - 1847
Crown Point, Ind.*